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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

for academic freedom and excellence

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The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization committed to academic freedom, excellence and accountability. Founded in 1995, and formerly known as the National Alumni Forum, ACTA has members from over 400 colleges and universities. Its quarterly publication, *Inside Academe*, goes to over 12,000 readers, including 3,000+ college and university trustees. ACTA focuses its efforts in three areas: academic excellence, governance, and giving.

Academic Excellence

ACTA helps alumni and trustees across the country promote academic freedom and excellence at their alma maters. It supports programs and policies that encourage high academic standards, strong curricula, and the free exchange of ideas, so that every student receives a basic grounding in the major fields of human knowledge. As part of this effort, and building on its widely praised study, *Losing America's Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century*, ACTA stresses the importance of American history to our civic survival and future as a nation, emphasizing its study in our schools by looking at great events, ideas, and documents of the Founding.

Governance

ACTA works with governors, education leaders, and trustees to strengthen the ability of boards to exercise active oversight, correct abuses, and restore a proper sense of educational mission to our colleges and universities.

ACTA's Trustees for Better Teachers initiative educates and encourages college and university trustees to play an active role in evaluating and requiring improvements in teacher education programs, so that teachers receive an education that is content-based, grounded in the liberal arts, and emphasizes knowledge and learning rather than ideology and attitude manipulation.

ACTA has also helped launch a new nonpartisan service organization for college and university trustees known as the *Institute for Effective Governance*.

Giving

Through the Fund for Academic Renewal and *The Intelligent Donor's Guide to College Giving*, ACTA helps donors target their gifts to excellent programs that will give students an alternative to courses that are too often mediocre, trivial, or ideologically driven.

Former National Endowment for the Humanities chairman Lynne V. Cheney is chairman emeritus. The ACTA National Council includes such distinguished Americans as former Education Secretary William J. Bennett, former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm and New Republic publisher Martin Peretz.

Politics in the Classroom

**A Survey of Students
at the
Top 50 Colleges & Universities**

October – November, 2004

conducted for

The American Council of Trustees & Alumni

by



Analysis and Commentary by the American Council of Trustees & Alumni

I. Executive Summary

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni commissioned the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut (CSRA) to conduct a survey of students at the country's top colleges and universities in order to evaluate their perceptions of the political climate on campus as well as their experiences with the inclusion of political commentary and material in their courses.

658 undergraduate students from the top 25 liberal arts colleges and the top 25 universities, as listed by *U.S. News and World Report*, were interviewed for this study.

The following are highlights of the survey findings:

- Nearly half of college students (48%) from elite universities and colleges in the United States report that some panel discussions and presentations on their campus are totally one-sided.
- According to 46% of the student respondents, some professors use the classroom to present their personal political views.
- 68% of the students said that during the recent presidential election campaign, their professors made negative comments in class about President Bush, compared with only 17% who reported negative comments about Senator Kerry.
- 42% of the students surveyed complained that some course readings present only one side of a controversial issue.
- While nearly half of the students (47%) say that professors make negative comments in class about conservatives, only 15% report negative comments about liberals. 74% assert that their teachers make positive in-class remarks about liberals.
- Half of the students (49%) state that professors frequently comment on politics in class even when it has nothing to do with the course.
- More than 8-in-10 students (83%) say that faculty evaluation forms completed by students do not ask about a professor's social, political, or religious bias.

II. Survey Findings

General Inferences and Observations

This survey suggests a deeply troubling lack of intellectual openness on America's elite campuses.

First, half of the students (49%) accuse faculty of injecting politics into the classroom even in courses that have nothing to do with political matters. Many of the respondents specialize in fields such as biology (10%) or engineering (8%), where one would not expect courses with political content.

Second, the remarks of the professors, as well as course readings, are often one-sided, with clear evidence of bias against conservative positions and in favor of liberal viewpoints. Consistent with this, the faculty was widely reported to have made hostile remarks about President Bush (68%), but positive comments about Senator Kerry (62%). (The survey was conducted just before and after the 2004 Election.) More than one-fifth (22%) of the students complain about instructors who create a classroom environment hostile to certain political or social views.

Third, there is a disturbing partiality outside of the classroom as well, with nearly half the respondents (48%) reporting that campus presentations and panel discussions "seem totally one-sided."

Although these inferences will perhaps surprise no one who has been observing campus conditions in the last several decades, there are features of this survey that are new and significant.

First, this is a survey of *students*, whereas prior studies focused on the faculty. Students may be expected to be more candid than faculty or administrators, as they have less of a stake in the institutional status quo. Furthermore, the instant survey is not subject to the criticism leveled at studies of the politics and ideology of the faculty. Some have claimed that studies showing that professors are overwhelmingly liberals and/or Democrats are insignificant because they do not demonstrate an impact on the classroom. The present study proves that there is such an impact.

Second, half of the respondents described their own politics as left-leaning (46% Liberal; 5% Radical Left), which makes their report of bias all the more credible. In addition, cross-tabulations indicate that self-identified conservative students reported bias in significantly higher numbers. It may be inferred that such students would be more aware of pro-liberal or anti-conservative biases, the predominant biases on campus. This suggests that figures based on the responses of all students, without regard to ideology, may be underreporting campus one-sidedness.

The Political Atmosphere on Campus

This survey examined the general sense of openness on campus, the tolerance of different views on controversial issues, and the diversity of viewpoints offered at campus presentations. In each case, significant minorities of students expressed serious concerns.

The survey finds that one-fifth of college students (21%) agree that certain topics or viewpoints are “off limits” on their campus.

On specific “hot button” topics, such as affirmative action and patriotism, there is a split among respondents.

- Overall, 17% of the respondents believe that students on their campus do not feel free to express their honest views about affirmative action. However, conservative students (36%) are more than two and a half times as likely as liberals (14%) to believe that students cannot be truly candid about such racial issues.
- 12% of the students overall believe that they cannot freely express their patriotism on campus. However, fewer than 1-in-10 liberals (9%) feel so constrained, whereas 2-in-10 conservatives (19%) perceive such limitations.

There are disturbing reports from students regarding campus speaking events. Nearly half of the students (48%) say that some campus panel discussions and presentations on political matters are “totally one-sided.”

Politics in the Classroom

Students express a great deal of concern about the treatment of political issues in the classroom. Significant minorities believe that their professors improperly use the classroom to present their personal political views, that their courses and readings are one-sided, that their professors praise liberal, while condemning conservative, policies and politicians, and that students are pressured into agreeing with their teachers. Conservative students, undoubtedly more sensitive to criticisms of their own views, complain about these matters in consistently higher proportions. However, significant numbers of liberal and moderate students also voice dissatisfaction.

Regarding interjecting political matters into courses, 46% of the students report that some professors use the classroom to present their personal political views. Self-styled conservatives (61%) and students from liberal arts colleges (51%) are significantly more likely to agree with this proposition. 49% of all respondents say that professors frequently comment on politics in class even when it has nothing to do with the course.

When faculty members comment on politics their remarks are usually critical of conservative views and politicians. Over two-thirds of the students (68%) – regardless of ideology – said they had professors who made negative comments about President Bush in class. 62% reported *positive* comments about Sen. Kerry.

47% of the students (59% of the conservatives) say that professors make negative comments in class about conservatives, while few students (15%) report negative comments about liberals. Students attending public universities with 10,000 students or more are more likely to agree that their professors criticize conservatives (57%) than their counterparts from private universities with 10,000 students or more (36%), or those from private universities with fewer than 10,000 students (40%).

One-Sided Courses

More than 4-in-10 students (42%) report that some courses have readings which present only one side of a controversial issue. Students from big public universities (10,000 or more students) are significantly more likely to agree with the statement (49%) than those from small private universities (less than 10,000 students) (36%).

The survey also finds that between a third and a quarter of students (29%) believe that some courses present social and political issues in an unfair and one-sided matter.

29% of the respondents complain about courses in which students feel that they have to agree with the professor's political or social views in order to get a good grade.

Over one-fifth of students (22%) said that some professors create an environment that is hostile to certain political or social views. 42% of conservatives, and 19% of liberals, concur. Small private liberal arts colleges generated more complaints – 32% – compared with 14% of the large private universities. Class size may be an explanatory factor here. Students may feel more inhibited in the small classes of the private liberal arts colleges.

Student Ability to Complain

When asked about a specific mode of complaint – faculty evaluation forms completed by students – a sizeable majority (83%) say that there is no question concerning a professor's social, political or religious bias. This response (over 80%) was the same across institutional types.

Respondent Characteristics

All survey respondents were currently enrolled students at the *U.S. News* top 50 colleges and universities.

52% are female, 48% male.

In terms of ideology, most students described their own views as liberal (46%) or moderate (33%). A majority of the respondents are on the political left (46% liberal + 5% radical left). Small liberal arts colleges have the most students self-identifying as liberal (61%). Thirteen percent (13%) of the students describe themselves as conservatives, whereas an insignificant number (<1%) called themselves "ultraconservative."

Asked to identify their “majors,” or specializations, responses were wide-ranging. The most popular majors among respondents were Political Science (11%), Biological Sciences (10%), Engineering (8%), and Economics (7%).

III. Sample Design

A total of 658 undergraduate students from the top 25 National Universities and top 25 National Liberal Arts Colleges, as defined by *U.S. News and World Report*,* were interviewed for this survey (See Table 1.) Because of ties in the rankings, a total of 26 National Universities were included in the sample.

Table 1. Top Schools as Defined By *U.S. News and World Report*

National Universities

Rank / School

- 1 Harvard University (MA)
- 1 Princeton University (NJ)
- 3 Yale University (CT)
- 4 University of Pennsylvania
- 5 Duke University (NC)
- 5 Massachusetts Inst. of Technology
- 5 Stanford University (CA)
- 8 California Institute of Technology
- 9 Columbia University (NY)
- 9 Dartmouth College (NH)
- 11 Northwestern University (IL)
- 11 Washington University (MO)
- 13 Brown University (RI)
- 14 Cornell University (NY)
- 14 Johns Hopkins University (MD)
- 14 University of Chicago
- 17 Rice University (TX)
- 18 University of Notre Dame (IN)
- 18 Vanderbilt University (TN)
- 20 Emory University (GA)
- 21 University of California–Berkeley
- 22 Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
- 22 University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
- 22 University of Virginia
- 25 Georgetown University (DC)
- 25 University of California–Los Angeles

National Liberal Arts Colleges

Rank / School

- 1 Williams College (MA)
- 2 Amherst College (MA)
- 2 Swarthmore College (PA)
- 4 Wellesley College (MA)
- 5 Carleton College (MN)
- 5 Pomona College (CA)
- 7 Bowdoin College (ME)
- 7 Davidson College (NC)
- 9 Haverford College (PA)
- 9 Wesleyan University (CT)
- 11 Middlebury College (VT)
- 12 Vassar College (NY)
- 13 Claremont McKenna College (CA)
- 13 Smith College (MA)
- 13 Washington and Lee University (VA)
- 16 Colgate University (NY)
- 16 Grinnell College (IA)
- 16 Harvey Mudd College (CA)
- 19 Colby College (ME)
- 19 Hamilton College (NY)
- 21 Bryn Mawr College (PA)
- 22 Bates College (ME)
- 23 Oberlin College (OH)
- 24 Mount Holyoke College (MA)
- 24 Trinity College (CT)

All interviews were conducted by telephone. Students were randomly selected from the 51 colleges and universities listed in Table 1 using two distinct methods designed to include all colleges and universities in the sample frame. Published directories were used for schools where available. Electronic directories were available from Survey Sampling, Inc. for 19 schools comprising 37% of the total students in the Top 50 schools. Students were

* Ranking as published for 2003-2004 in *America's Best Colleges*, *U.S. News and World Report*. Available online at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cohome.htm>.

randomly selected from these directories. In cases where no directory of student names was available, CSRA obtained the telephone numbers of known students and generated random telephone numbers. Survey interviewers screened for school in all cases, and interviewed only currently enrolled students at the identified colleges and universities.

The sample was stratified to reflect population percentages by type of school. Schools were divided into four categories for these strata: Private National Universities with 10,000 or fewer undergraduate students, Private National Universities with more than 10,000 students, Public National Universities with more than 10,000 students and Private Liberal Arts Colleges with less than 10,000 students. The final data was weighted to account for minor differences between the targeted numbers of interviews and actual completes.

IV. Key Findings and Weighted Results

ELITE COLLEGE SURVEY

Based on interviews with 658 students at top schools in the United States as defined by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Interviewer's Statement: "Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from the University of Connecticut's Center for Survey Research and Analysis. We are conducting a survey regarding politics in college campuses. We are interested in the opinions of an undergraduate student. Are you an undergraduate student?"

"Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements. First..."

Q1. On my campus, some panel discussions and presentations on political issues seem totally one-sided.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	15%	22%	11%	16%	24%	65%
	Somewhat agree	33%	41%	33%	28%	45%	35%
	Somewhat disagree	24%	29%	23%	29%	16%	
	Strongly disagree	23%	8%	28%	21%	10%	
	Don't Know	5%		5%	5%	5%	
	Refused	0%		1%	0%		
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q2. On my campus, some professors use the classroom to present their personal political views.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	10%	2%	7%	11%	20%	65%
	Somewhat agree	36%	53%	37%	31%	41%	35%
	Somewhat disagree	24%	25%	21%	31%	21%	
	Strongly disagree	29%	16%	34%	26%	19%	
	Don't Know	1%	3%	1%	1%		
	Refused	0%		0%			
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q3. On my campus, some professors make negative comments about President Bush in class.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	26%	37%	27%	20%	33%	35%
	Somewhat agree	42%	43%	40%	47%	33%	65%
	Somewhat disagree	16%	9%	16%	16%	18%	
	Strongly disagree	14%	9%	13%	16%	14%	
	Don't Know	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q4. On my campus, some professors make positive comments about President Bush in class.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	3%		2%	3%	4%	
	Somewhat agree	24%	17%	22%	28%	28%	29%
	Somewhat disagree	34%	51%	31%	37%	31%	
	Strongly disagree	34%	30%	40%	28%	29%	35%
	Don't Know	4%	2%	4%	4%	8%	35%
	Refused	0%			0%		
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q5. On my campus, some professors make negative comments about Senator Kerry in class.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	1%		1%	2%	2%	
	Somewhat agree	16%	29%	16%	15%	11%	29%
	Somewhat disagree	32%	44%	28%	34%	42%	71%
	Strongly disagree	47%	19%	53%	45%	40%	
	Don't Know	3%	8%	2%	4%	5%	
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q6. On my campus, some professors make positive comments about Senator Kerry in class.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	16%	14%	12%	18%	26%	35%
	Somewhat agree	46%	61%	49%	43%	41%	29%
	Somewhat disagree	19%	11%	20%	21%	15%	
	Strongly disagree	13%	9%	14%	11%	9%	
	Don't Know	6%	5%	4%	6%	8%	35%
	Refused	0%		0%	0%		
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q7. On my campus, some courses have readings which present only one side of a controversial issue.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	12%	13%	7%	13%	24%	65%
	Somewhat agree	30%	45%	29%	26%	41%	
	Somewhat disagree	26%	22%	28%	27%	17%	35%
	Strongly disagree	28%	19%	31%	28%	13%	
	Don't Know	5%		4%	6%	5%	
	Refused	0%		1%			
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q7(a). On my campus, some courses have readings which present only one side of a controversial issue.

		Total	Stratification			
			Private University LT 10K	Private University 10K+	Public University 10K+	Private College LT 10K
	Strongly agree	12%	9%	12%	17%	9%
	Somewhat agree	30%	27%	34%	32%	31%
	Somewhat disagree	26%	27%	19%	27%	22%
	Strongly disagree	28%	30%	29%	21%	33%
	Don't Know	5%	6%	6%	2%	5%
	Refused	0%	0%			1%
Total	Count	658	264	34	210	150

Q8. On my campus, some professors make negative comments in class about conservatives.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	11%	6%	9%	10%	24%	
	Somewhat agree	36%	67%	38%	31%	35%	100%
	Somewhat disagree	29%	8%	29%	33%	24%	
	Strongly disagree	22%	17%	23%	24%	15%	
	Don't Know	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	
	Refused	0%					
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q8(a). On my campus, some professors make negative comments in class about conservatives.

		Total	Stratification			
			Private University LT 10K	Private University 10K+	Public University 10K+	Private College LT 10K
	Strongly agree	11%	9%	6%	14%	12%
	Somewhat agree	36%	31%	30%	43%	39%
	Somewhat disagree	29%	32%	34%	25%	25%
	Strongly disagree	22%	25%	21%	17%	23%
	Don't Know	2%	2%	9%	1%	2%
	Refused	0%				0%
Total	Count	658	264	34	210	150

Q9. On my campus, some professors make negative comments in class about liberals.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	1%		1%	1%	3%	
	Somewhat agree	14%	26%	12%	17%	12%	
	Somewhat disagree	34%	41%	32%	31%	41%	100%
	Strongly disagree	49%	29%	53%	50%	41%	
	Don't Know	2%	5%	2%	1%	3%	
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q10. On my campus, some professors frequently comment on politics in class even though it has nothing to do with the course.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	14%	22%	10%	17%	17%	65%
	Somewhat agree	35%	26%	36%	31%	46%	
	Somewhat disagree	26%	27%	28%	26%	22%	35%
	Strongly disagree	24%	19%	26%	25%	12%	
	Don't Know	1%		1%	0%	1%	
	Refused	1%	7%	0%		2%	
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q11. On my campus, students don't feel free to express their honest views about affirmative action.

	Total	Ideology				
		Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
Strongly agree	5%	5%	3%	6%	12%	35%
Somewhat agree	12%	9%	11%	10%	24%	29%
Somewhat disagree	22%	4%	23%	23%	26%	
Strongly disagree	59%	80%	62%	59%	36%	35%
Don't Know	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	
Refused	0%			0%		
Total Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q12. On my campus, students don't feel free to express their patriotism.

	Total	Ideology				
		Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
Strongly agree	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%	35%
Somewhat agree	9%	12%	7%	8%	16%	
Somewhat disagree	21%	17%	24%	15%	25%	
Strongly disagree	67%	64%	66%	74%	56%	65%
Don't Know	0%		1%			
Refused	0%	2%	0%			
Total Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q13. On my campus, there are courses in which students feel they have to agree with the professor's political or social views in order to get a good grade.

	Total	Ideology				
		Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
Strongly agree	7%		5%	6%	15%	29%
Somewhat agree	22%	22%	17%	23%	37%	35%
Somewhat disagree	22%	20%	21%	25%	22%	35%
Strongly disagree	46%	55%	55%	42%	24%	
Don't Know	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	
Refused	0%					
Total Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q14. On my campus, some professors make positive comments in class about liberals.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	27%	26%	25%	26%	36%	35%
	Somewhat agree	47%	60%	51%	41%	45%	65%
	Somewhat disagree	13%	3%	12%	18%	10%	
	Strongly disagree	10%	11%	10%	10%	6%	
	Don't Know	3%		2%	5%	3%	
	Refused	0%			1%		
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q15. On my campus, some professors are intolerant of certain political and social viewpoints.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	5%	2%	3%	5%	14%	
	Somewhat agree	16%	21%	12%	15%	30%	65%
	Somewhat disagree	26%	23%	25%	29%	30%	35%
	Strongly disagree	51%	50%	58%	50%	27%	
	Don't Know	2%	3%	2%	1%		
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q15(a). On my campus, some professors are intolerant of certain political and social viewpoints.

		Total	Stratification			
			Private University LT 10K	Private University 10K+	Public University 10K+	Private College LT 10K
	Strongly agree	5%	5%	3%	4%	5%
	Somewhat agree	16%	14%	5%	16%	25%
	Somewhat disagree	26%	23%	39%	33%	19%
	Strongly disagree	51%	56%	49%	45%	49%
	Don't Know	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%
Total	Count	658	264	34	210	150

Q16. On my campus, some courses present social and political issues in an unfair and one-sided manner.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	6%		4%	4%	18%	65%
	Somewhat agree	23%	33%	19%	23%	38%	
	Somewhat disagree	34%	45%	35%	33%	30%	
	Strongly disagree	33%	19%	37%	37%	15%	
	Don't Know	3%		4%	3%		35%
	Refused	0%	2%	0%	0%		
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q17. On my campus, there are courses in which the professor creates an environment that is hostile to certain political or social views.

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Strongly agree	3%		2%	3%	10%	35%
	Somewhat agree	19%	12%	17%	17%	32%	29%
	Somewhat disagree	25%	37%	20%	30%	25%	35%
	Strongly disagree	51%	51%	59%	49%	28%	
	Don't Know	2%		2%	0%	6%	
	Refused	0%					
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q17(a). On my campus, there are courses in which the professor creates an environment that is hostile to certain political or social views.

	Total	Stratification			
		Private University LT 10K	Private University 10K+	Public University 10K+	Private College LT 10K
Strongly agree	3%	2%	2%	4%	5%
Somewhat agree	19%	15%	12%	20%	27%
Somewhat disagree	25%	25%	29%	27%	20%
Strongly disagree	51%	55%	51%	47%	48%
Don't Know	2%	3%	6%	1%	
Refused	0%	0%			
Total Count	658	264	34	210	150

Q18. On my campus, there are certain topics or viewpoints that are off limits.

	Total	Ideology				
		Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
Strongly agree	5%	3%	6%	3%	8%	
Somewhat agree	16%	19%	12%	17%	31%	29%
Somewhat disagree	27%	20%	27%	30%	24%	35%
Strongly disagree	50%	58%	53%	50%	36%	35%
Don't Know	1%		2%	1%	1%	
Refused	0%					
Total Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q19. Do the student evaluation forms of the faculty ask about a professor's social, political or religious bias?

	Total	Ideology				
		Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
Yes	3%	11%	3%	3%		
No	83%	66%	83%	83%	91%	65%
Don't Know	14%	22%	14%	13%	9%	35%
Refused	0%					
Total Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Q20. What is your major?

	Total	Ideology				
		Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
Agriculture	0%		0%	1%		
Anthropology	1%		2%	0%	1%	
Biological Sciences	10%	3%	10%	13%	8%	
Biophysics	0%		1%			
Business	6%		4%	7%	10%	
Chemistry	2%		4%	1%		
Classical Studies	1%	2%		1%	1%	
Communication Sciences	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	
Cultural Studies (African-American, Asian American, Middle	2%	13%	2%	0%	3%	
Economics	7%		6%	6%	13%	
Education	1%		1%		1%	
Engineering	8%	5%	7%	9%	8%	35%
English	5%	6%	5%	6%	3%	
Environmental Science	1%		1%	1%		
European Studies	0%			0%		
Fine Arts	4%	5%	5%	4%	1%	
Geography	0%		1%			
Geology and Geophysics	0%		0%			
History	4%		2%	5%	6%	
Human Development and Family Relations	1%		1%	1%	2%	
Journalism	0%		0%	1%		
Linguistics	0%		0%	0%		
Mathematics	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	
Nursing	0%		1%	0%		
Philosophy	1%	5%		1%	1%	
Physics	2%	2%	2%	4%		
Physiology and Neurobiology	2%		2%	3%		
Political Science	11%	18%	12%	7%	18%	35%
Psychology	5%		6%	3%	7%	
Sociology	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	
Women's Studies	0%		0%			
Undecided/Undeclared	5%	14%	3%	7%	4%	

Foreign Languages	1%		1%	1%		
Computer Sciences	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%	
International Relations/Studies	1%	5%	2%	1%		
Other (specify)	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	29%
Don't Know (vol.)	7%	9%	8%	7%	4%	
Refused (vol.)	0%		0%		1%	
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90
						3

Q21. How would you describe your views? Radical left, Liberal, Moderate, Conservative, or Ultraconservative?

		Stratification				
		Total	Private University LT 10K	Private University 10K+	Public University 10K+	Private College LT 10K
	Radical Left	5%	5%	3%	7%	4%
	Liberal	46%	43%	37%	44%	61%
	Moderate	33%	36%	52%	30%	24%
	Conservative	13%	13%	5%	16%	9%
	Ultraconservative	0%			1%	
	Don't Know	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
	Refused	1%	1%			1%
Total	Count	658	264	34	210	150

Q22. Record gender (DO NOT ASK)

		Total	Ideology				
			Radical Left	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Ultra Conservative
	Male	48%	66%	44%	48%	54%	35%
	Female	52%	34%	56%	52%	46%	65%
Total	Count	658	32	302	215	90	3

Bloomberg.com

Can States Monitor Political Bias on Campus?: Andrew Ferguson

By Andrew Ferguson

Feb. 6 (Bloomberg) -- At journalism school I flunked my class in ``Trends: How to Identify Them, How to Invent Them.''

So I'm not qualified to peg what follows as a genuine social or cultural trend. But it's happened in four state legislatures already. And we can always hope.

Most recently it's been percolating in Missouri, where Representative Jane Cunningham introduced a bill that will surely unnerve many of her state's higher education bureaucrats.

Cunningham's bill is aimed straight at the ideological orthodoxy that holds sway on U.S. college campuses. It would require that Missouri's state-funded colleges and universities announce each year what they have done institutionally ``to ensure and promote intellectual diversity and academic freedom." A bill similar to Cunningham's has also been introduced in Virginia.

In 2005, the state legislature in Pennsylvania established a special committee to investigate academic freedom and intellectual diversity on its campuses. The committee is requiring Pennsylvania's public colleges and universities to report by November 2008 on what concrete steps they've taken to ensure ``student rights" with respect to intellectual diversity.

And the South Dakota Board of Regents, responding to a similar move by its state legislature, now requires that an so-called Academic Freedom Statement be included in all course syllabuses, informing students that only academic performance, and not their political opinions, will serve as a basis for their grades.

A Trendlette?

Missouri, Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Dakota -- as they go, so goes the nation, maybe. This might be a trend after all. Or at least a trendlette.

Credit for it goes in part to the lobbying efforts of American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a Washington-based academic watchdog group dedicated to the proposition that ``the lack of intellectual diversity is the greatest problem facing higher education."

Like a lot of activist groups in the U.S. conservative movement, ACTA specializes in taking the categories and phraseology of its ideological adversaries and turning them inside out.

Thus the progressive shibboleth of diversity -- most often used to indicate an unseemly obsession with racial categories and sexual orientation -- is now being used for something more admirable and democratic.

Data Hard to Ignore

It's meant to promote a range of intellectual views in institutions, many of them supported by taxpayers, where such a range is conspicuously lacking thanks in part to the efforts of administrators and professors who are obsessed with their more narrowly defined brand of diversity.

The data describing higher education's monochromatic ideological tint are hard to ignore -- and they intuitively ring true to anyone who's spent much time on a college campus.

In 2003, Daniel B. Klein of Santa Clara University and Charlotta Stern of Stockholm University conducted a large-scale survey of six national associations of social science and liberal arts faculty. The ratio of Democrats to Republicans ranged from 30-to-1 among anthropologists to 3-to-1 among economists.

More recently, a survey by sociologists Stanley Rothman, S. Robert Lichter and Neil Nevitte found that roughly 80 percent of humanities professors described themselves as left of center; 5 percent said they were conservative.

In the face of this evidence, defenders of the academic status quo have moved from arguing that the ideological tilt doesn't exist to arguing that, if it does exist, it has no practical effect.

Tell It to Summers

You would have a hard time proving that by Lawrence Summers, of course. Even a mainstream liberal like the former Clinton Treasury secretary had to quit the presidency of Harvard after he offended the ideological orthodoxy of the university's humanities faculty.

But what about abuse and intimidation in the classroom? Here the evidence, both statistical and anecdotal, is thinner though still unsettling.

Members of the Pennsylvania committee cited ``dozens'' of letters from state students complaining about professors who enforced an ideological conformity in the classroom. Others cited a tilt in the paid speakers invited to campus or school-sponsored panels on current events as well as a generally inhospitable atmosphere for public conservatives.

ACTA commissioned the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut to survey undergraduates at the top 50 colleges and universities. Their majors ranged from the humanities to the hard sciences.

Almost one in three, 29 percent, said they felt pressure to agree with their professors' political views to get a good grade.

Another 42 percent said that classroom assignments on controversial subjects were ``one-sided.''

McCarthyism, Again

In light of these rumblings, and faced with the vast uniformity in the ideological coloration of the faculty, the steps being called for in the state legislatures, and by ACTA, seem reasonable enough.

Among them: letting students know during school orientation that they have means for filing grievances if they've been politically intimidated; including questions about ``academic freedom'' on student course evaluation forms; and keeping a central record of academic freedom complaints.

Mild measures like these fall rather short of ``McCarthyism.'' But predictably enough, it is ``McCarthyism'' -- the off-the-shelf, all-purpose debate-ender -- that ACTA and the legislators are accused of by the defenders of the academic status quo.

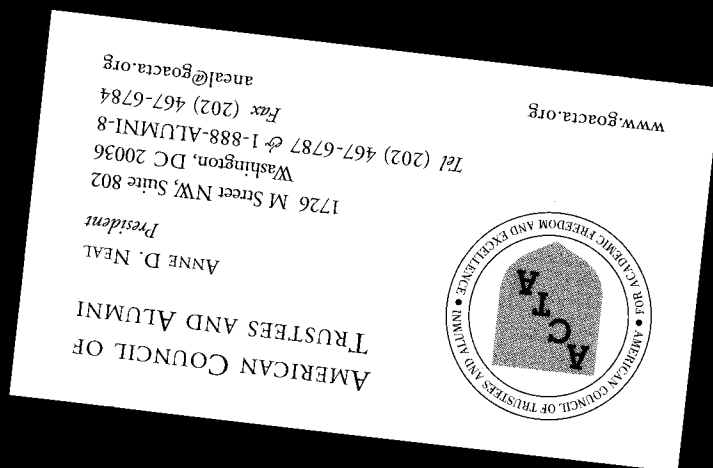
Really, these people need to find a new cliché to hurl at their critics. If they do, I'll be happy to declare it a trend.

(Andrew Ferguson is a Bloomberg News columnist. In 1992, he wrote speeches for President George H.W. Bush. The opinions expressed are his own.)

To contact the writer of this column: Andrew Ferguson in Washington at af@clinton12@yahoo.com.

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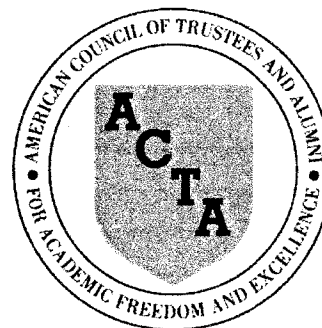
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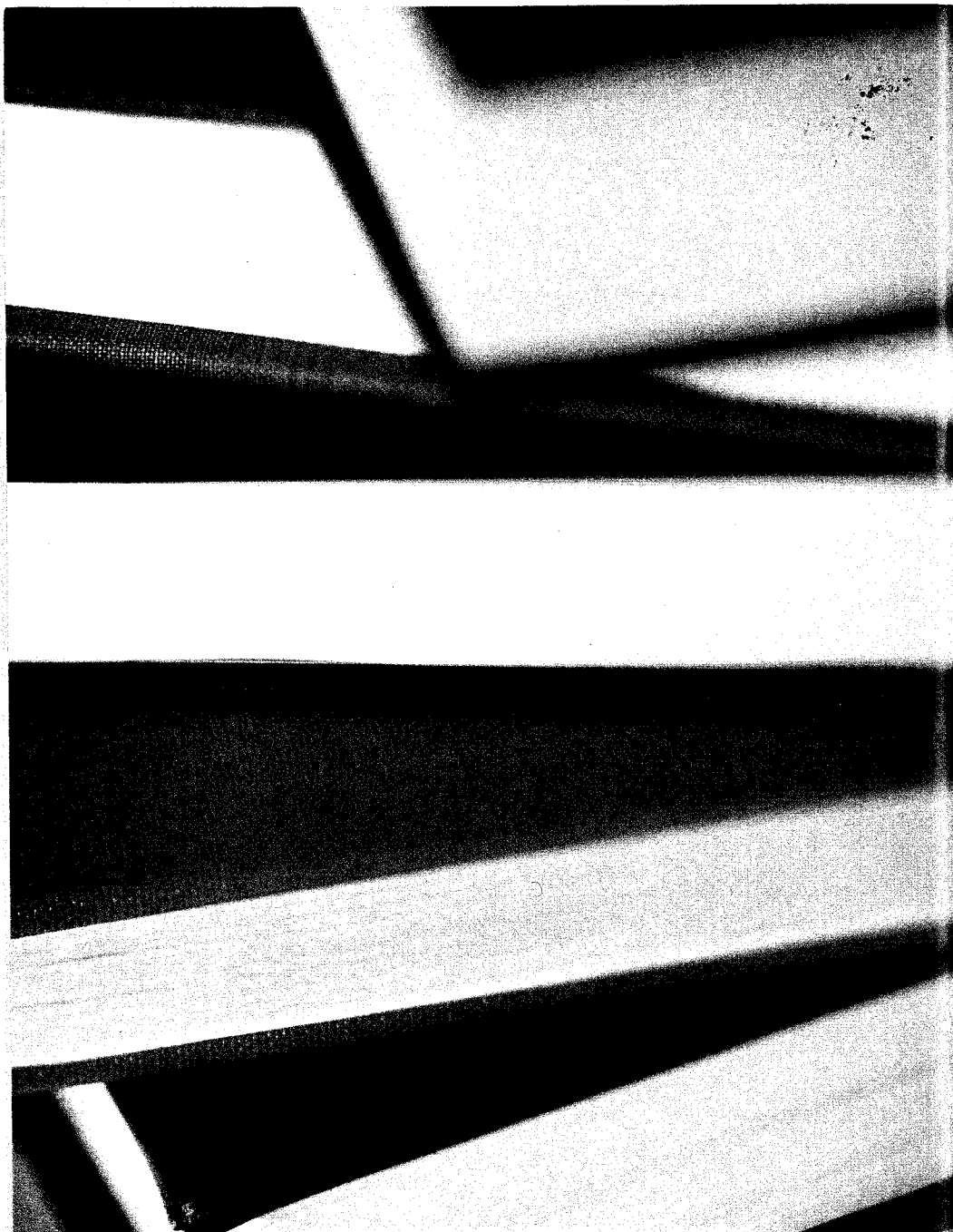
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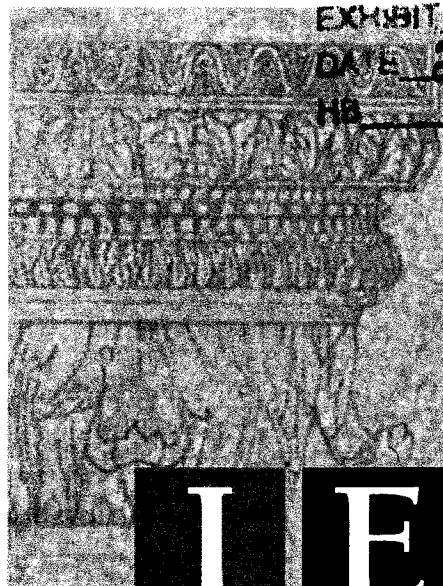


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